

REMARKS

Claims 7-17 and 51-59 remain in the application. Claim 6 has been cancelled, and claims 7 and 51 have been amended.

In the Office Action mailed February 9, 2005, the Examiner rejected claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Cable Modem Telephony Return Interface Specification (CMTRIS). Claims 7-17 and 51-59 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over CMTRIS in view of Operations Support System Interface (OSSI) Specification.

Applicants respectfully disagree with the bases for the rejections and request reconsideration and further examination of the claims.

As set forth in pending claims 7-17 and 51-59, a network station manager and method of administering a broadband, cable modem network station for connectivity to a network (*see* claims 7 and 51, respectively) are provided. One feature of the present invention shown in Figure 4 is the centralized error handling architecture of the cable modem networking manager. As set forth in the specification, error processing is centralized in the Handle Errors State to enable the networking manager to analyze all its information available on the operational state of the cable modem. Decisions are made at each state on what the next state should be based on message contents and on the DOCSIS specifications with an emphasis on centralizing error detection and processing. In addition, when in the idle state as shown in Figure 4, the cable modem manager task stays in a loop and will pull the IP ERRORS data structure for errors reported by the networking components. If an error is detected, the HANDLE ERRORS state will be forced. This state is entered after an error condition has been detected in any of the states except for the DEAD State. Depending on the error code received, error recovery and error logging is done. If no recovery is possible, the DEAD State will be selected.

Both the CMTRIS and the OSSI specifications cited by the Examiner fail to describe or suggest a cable modem networking manager having a centralized error handling state as disclosed in Figure 4 and as recited in claims 7 and 51. Although the OSSI specification does disclose a management agent run on the cable modem, nowhere is there any teaching or suggestion in the OSSI specification of utilizing a centralized error handling state, taken alone or in any combination with the CMTRIS. As the Examiner acknowledges, the CMTRIS does not

disclose an operational state configured to monitor for error messages and other messages communicated from other states and to communicate the error messages to the centralized error handling state and to send request messages to an OSSI interface management task.

Turning to the claims, claim 7 is directed to a network station manager for a cable modem network station that includes a management task component configured to initialize the network station and to maintain connectivity of the network station with a cable network, the management task component including a state machine configured to communicate with a plurality of task components and a centralized error handling state and peripheral states.

Claim 7 further recites the operational state configured to monitor for error messages and other messages communicated from other states and to communicate the error messages to the centralized error handling state and to send request messages to an Operational Support System Interface management task. As discussed above, nowhere does OSSI specification taken alone or in any combination with CMTRIS teach or suggest a centralized error handling state and peripheral states. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 7 is clearly allowable over the OSSI specification and CMTRIS combination cited by the Examiner. Dependent claims 8-17 are allowable for the reasons why claim 7 is allowable as well as for the additional features recited therein.

Claim 51 is directed to a method of administering a broadband cable modem network station for connectivity to a network that comprises initializing the network station to a predetermined set of parameters, including a centralized error handling state and peripheral states that include an initialization state. Claim 11 further recites, *inter alia*, entering an operational state upon successful initialization of the network station and connectivity with the network and receiving error messages and initiating error recovery in the centralized error handling state in response to the error messages, and receiving request messages and sending request messages to a request message management task. As discussed above with respect to claim 1, nowhere do OSSI specification and CMTRIS taken alone or in any combination thereof teach or suggest a centralized error handling state that receives error messages and initiates error recovery in a method of administering a broadband, cable modem network station for connectivity to a network. In view of the foregoing, applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 51 is

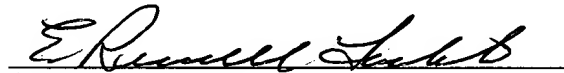
clearly allowable. Dependent claims 52-59, which depend from claim 51, are allowable for the reasons why claim 51 is allowable as well as for the additional features recited therein.

In view of the foregoing, applicants submit that all of the claims in this application are in condition for allowance. In the event the Examiner finds minor informalities that can be resolved by telephone conference, the Examiner is urged to contact applicants' undersigned representative by telephone at (206) 622-4900 in order to expeditiously resolve prosecution of this application. Consequently, early and favorable action allowing these claims and passing this case to issuance is respectfully solicited.

The Director is authorized to charge any additional fees due by way of this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-1090.

Respectfully submitted,

SEED Intellectual Property Law Group PLLC



E. Russell Tarleton

Registration No. 31,800

ERT:alb

Enclosure:

Postcard

701 Fifth Avenue, Suite 6300  
Seattle, Washington 98104-7092  
Phone: (206) 622-4900  
Fax: (206) 682-6031

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